

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

SAM-01 EUR-12 SCCT-01 AID-20 /089 W

----- 089961

R 181312Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3954

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, LE, SY

SUBJECT: GOL CRACKDOWN ON LOCAL TERRORIST CELLS MAY BE
RELATED TO ARAB COMMUNIST ORG (ACO)

REF: DAMASCUS 844

1. AT LEAST 12 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY LEBANESE ARMY
G-2 IN LAST TEN DAYS IN CONNECTION WITH LOCAL TERRORIST
INCIDENTS POSSIBLY EXTENDING AS FAR BACK AS BANK OF AMERICA
ATTACK OF OCTOBER, 1973 (BEIRUT 12320, OCT 20, 1973 AND
PREVIOUS). PRESS REPORTS LIST THOSE DETAINED TO DATE AS
FOLLOWING:

- A) ABBAS MAHMOUD SHUAIB - 20 YEAR OLD BEIRUT PORT WORKER
- B) ISSAM OR HASSAN ABDULLAH - AGE 23, FROM SOUTH LEBANON,
EMPLOYEE AT IRAQI TRANSPORT CO. (REPORTEDLY FREED APRIL 13, 1975)
- C) AWADAH AHMAD DOGHMAN - AGE 19, LAUNDRY WORKER FROM CHOUF
- D) ABBAS AL HAJ HASSAN (NUREDDIN?) - AGE 25, PROFESSION UNKNOWN

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E) SAMI ZIBIAN, EDITOR, LEFTIST WEEKLY AL DESTOUR

F) ADNAN ZURAIK, LAWYER

G) SAMI SUWEIDAN, SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

H) HASSAN OR HUSSEIN SALAMAH, PROOFREADER, AL DESTOUR

I) RIDA MAHMOUD AOUN, EMPLOYEE OF UNNAMED EMBASSY

J) MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, EMPLOYEE OF SINN AL FIL MUNICIPALITY

K) FADL JABBOURI, IRAQI

L) ALI TALJ, WARRANT ISSUED FOR ARREST

2. INFO ON INVESTIGATION TO DATE IS BASED ON OCCASIONALLY CONFLICTING PRESS ACCOUNTS AND G-2 LEBANESE ARMY COMMENT TO EMBASSY'S DATT ON APRIL 11 THAT SEVERAL LOCAL TERRORISTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY G-2 OFFICERS. SOLE OFFICIAL GOL COMMENT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN THUS FAR IS MINISTRY OF INFORMATION STATEMENT, REPORTED APRIL 13, WHICH STATES THAT THOSE ARRESTED WERE REFERRED APRIL 10 BY THE ARMY ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE MILITARY JUG D'INSTRUCTION, ELIAS ASSAF.

3. ACCORDING TO FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, DETAINEES ARE MEMBERS OF THREE INTER-LOCKING TERRORIST NETWORKS: ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF TERRORISM SUCH AS BOMBINGS; SECOND SPECIALIZING IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURES AS WELL AS THE DISPATCH OF LETTER BOMBS; AND THIRD PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO BANK ROBBERIES. SAME PAPER ON APRIL 12 LISTS INCIDENTS IN WHICH AUTHORITIES BELIEVE DETAINEES TO HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED AS FOLLOWS:

- DYNAMITING OF USIA REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER AT SINN AL FIL
- DYNAMITING OF SPINNEY'S DEPARTMENT STORE AT JNAH IN DECEMBER, 1974 (SEE BEIRUT 15284, DEC 23, 1974)
- DYNAMITING OF FORD FOUNDATION OFFICES

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- DYNAMITING OF AUTOMOBILE OF COMMISSIONER MOHAMMED ASSI OF SURETE GENERAL
- MURDER OF GENDARME NASSIF BOUEZ IN SHIAH ON MAR 7, 1975
- ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF IRANIAN AMB IN BEIRUT (BEIRUT 3062 MARCH 15, 1974)

- ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF CHILEAN AMB IN BEIRUT IN JULY, 1974
- DYNAMITING OF OFFICES OF PROTEINE CO. OFFICES IN ABDUL AZIZ STREET ON FEB 28 (SEE BEIRUT 2837, MAR 3, 1975)

4. SOME RECENT PRESS REPORTS CLAIM AT LEAST SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED HAVE CONFESSED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE QTE ORGANIZATION OF REVOLUTIONARY LEBANESE SOCIALISTS UNQTE (ORLS) LED BY LEBANESE FUGITIVE MURSHED SHIBBU. ORLS INDEED CLAIMED CREDIT FOR SOME OF INCIDENTS LISTED, WHILE OTHERS WERE CLAIMED BY QTE ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION UNQTE (DYNAMITING OF SPINNEY'S) WHICH ALSO CLAIMED ADDITIONAL TERRORIST ACTS IN BOTH LEBANON AND SYRIA. MOST RECENT ESCAPE CLAIMED BY ACO WAS ROBBERY ON FEB 19, 1975 OF BRANCH OF BEIRUT'S BANQUE LIBANAISE POUR LE COMMERCE.

5. COMMENT: WEEKEND'S PHALANGIST/FEDAYEEN CLASHES AND RESULTING CRISIS (BEIRUT 4749 AND SUBSEQUENT) EDGED NEWS OF INVESTIGATION OUT OF MANDAY PAPERS, AS CONCEIVABLY SOME ELEMENTS MAY HAVE HOPED THEY WOULD. NEVERTHELESS, ON ASSUMPTION THAT NEWS REPORTS OF INVESTIGATION TO DATE ARE REASONABLY ACCURATE, GOL SECURITY FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE GAINED, AFTER MANY MONTHS OF FRUSTRATION, THEIR FIRST HANDLE ON MYSTERIOUS QTE ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION. UNQTE SEEMS APPROPRIATE TO POSTULATE, SUBJECT TO FUTURE CONFIRMATION, THAT QTE ORGANIZATION OF REVOLUTIONARY LEBANESE SOCIALISTS, UNQTE QTE ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION UNQTE AND POSSIBLY QTE REVOLUTIONARY ARAB YOUTH ORGANIZATION UNQTE (BEIRUT 10444 AUG 30, 1974) MAY IN FACT BE SYNONYMOUS OR AT LEAST ORGANIZATIONALLY INTER-CONNECTED. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT WHEN BOMBING OF HAMRA BRANCH OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO OCCURRED LAST OCT, NOTE LEFT AT SCENE IN NAME OF ACO STATED OPERATION WAS IN HONOR OF MEMBER OF SHIBBU GANG IN GOL CUSTODY (BEIRUT 12358 OCT 12, 1974), THEREBY SUGGESTING CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN OR ACTUAL IDENTITY OF TWO. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING

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TO GOL INVESTIGATION, FURTHERMORE, TEND TO SUBSTANTIATE OUR FEELING (BEIRUT 11968, OCT 2, 1974) THAT ACO WAS ELUSIVE PRECISELY BECAUSE IT HAD NO SEPARATE IDENTITY.

6. IT IS INTERESTING TO SPECULATE WHY GOL SECURITY FORCES HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN SUCCESSFUL AT THIS TIME IN OBTAINING OPENING WEDGE INTO SUBVERSIVE NETWORKS. IN VIEW OF FACT, ACO OPERATED IN BOTH LEBANON AND SYRIA, IT MAY NOT BE FAR-FETCHED TO SUGGEST THAT GOL AND SAG HAVE BEEN TRADING LEADS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY DAMASCUS'S VIEW ON POSSIBILITY THAT SAG, AS RESULT OF RECENT ALLEGED ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS MAY HAVE TIPPED GOL OFF TO CULPRITS IN LEBANON. WE NOTE WITH SOME INTEREST FBIS (JN111225) ITEM QUOTING INA BAGHDAD AS CLAIMING THAT DIR-GEN OF GOL PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE, BUTROS DIB, PAID SECRET VISIT TO DAMASCUS APRIL 9 ALLEGEDLY TO CONVEY TO PRES ASSAD

INFO RELATING TO QTE PLAN UNQTE TO FORMENT DISCONTENT IN LEBANON. WHILE THIS MAY BE EXAMPLE OF IRAQI MISCHIEF-MAKING--ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT OMINOUS IN VIEW OF IMPLICATION OF SYRIAN-LEBANESE COLLABORATION AT TIME OF BAD IRAQI-SYRIAN RELATIONS--WE SUSPECT THAT LOAL IRAQI INTELLIGENCE HAS REPORTING OF BEIRUT/DAMASCUS CONTACTS AS ONE OF ITS PRIME OBJECTIVES. IF SUCH SECRET CONTACTS ACTUALLY OCCURRING, THEY MIGHT WELL CONCERN JOINT MEASURES AGAINST INTERNAL SUBVERSIVES--A MATTER WHICH JUST MIGHT BE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO BAGHDAD.

7. GOL HAS NOT IMPLICATED ANY ARAB GOVT OR LOCAL EMBASSY IN ITS CURRENT INVESTIGATION AND IS NOT LIKELY TO DO SO EVEN IF HARD EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THOSE ARRESTED (PARA 1 ABOVE) EVIDENTLY INCLUDE ONE IRAQI NATIONAL AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF UNNAMED EMBASSY. FURTHERMORE, ASIDE FROM EXPECTED MOVES BY LOCAL PRESS ASSOCIATION IN BEHALF OF ZIBIAN (ARA 1 (E)) OF AL DESTOUR, TRIPOLI DEPUTY ABDUL MAJID RIFAI, LEADER OF LOCAL PRO-IRAQI BAATH AND BAGHDAD'S PRIME BAG-MAN IN LEBANON, HAS BEEN MOST VOCAL IN DENUNCIATION OF RECENT ARRESTS.
GODLEY

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